

Q and A

1 GRAMMAR revision: question formation

- a Complete the following questions with one or two question words or an auxiliary verb.
- 1 How much do you earn?
  - 2 Are you married?
  - 3 \_\_\_\_\_ have you been learning English?
  - 4 \_\_\_\_\_ do you prefer, small towns or big cities?
  - 5 \_\_\_\_\_ do you go to the theatre a year?
  - 6 \_\_\_\_\_ tall are you?
  - 7 \_\_\_\_\_ religion are you?
  - 8 \_\_\_\_\_ you want to have children?
  - 9 \_\_\_\_\_ of music do you listen to?
  - 10 \_\_\_\_\_ advice do you listen to most?
  - 11 \_\_\_\_\_ you ever said 'I love you' and not meant it?
  - 12 \_\_\_\_\_ did you vote for in the last election?
- b Cross (X) the questions above which you wouldn't ask a person you don't know very well. Are there any questions which you would not even ask a good friend? Which questions might you expect to find in a magazine interview with a famous person?
- c Read the two interviews. Which question is...?  
the most personal    the most boring    the most original.
- d Read the interviews again and write N (Norah) or L (Lionel).
- Who...?
- 1 never has enough time for what he / she wants to do \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2 has happy childhood memories \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 avoids answering one of the questions \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4 feels guilty about something \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5 is probably a fan of the Rolling Stones \_\_\_\_\_
  - 6 is very proud about something \_\_\_\_\_
  - 7 says he / she is an insecure person \_\_\_\_\_
  - 8 needs help in his / her daily life \_\_\_\_\_
- e In pairs, look at questions 8–12 in the Lionel Richie interview. Find an example of...
- 1 a question where an auxiliary verb has been *added* to make the question.
  - 2 a question where there is no auxiliary verb.
  - 3 a question which ends with a preposition.
  - 4 a negative question.
  - 5 a question where the auxiliary verb and subject have been inverted to make the question.
- f p.132 Grammar Bank 1A. Read the rules and do the exercises.

Young star, old star

Every week the British newspaper, *The Guardian*, chooses people who have been in the news recently, and publishes a short interview with them called Q&A. The questionnaire often includes quite personal questions.

Q&A Norah Jones



Norah Jones was born in New York and is the daughter of the Indian sitar player and composer Ravi Shankar and the concert promoter Sue Jones; her half-sister is the musician Anoushka Shankar. A singer-songwriter, her debut album, *Come away with me*, sold more than 20 million copies worldwide and won her five Grammy Awards.

- 1 **Where would you like to live?**  
Barcelona.
- 2 **What do you most dislike about your appearance?**  
I am too short. I am 5ft 1in (155cm).
- 3 **Who would play you in the film of your life?**  
Maybe Christina Ricci.
- 4 **What's your favourite smell?**  
Onion, garlic, and butter cooking in a pan.
- 5 **What's your favourite word?**  
'No'.
- 6 **Which living person do you most despise, and why?**  
No comment!
- 7 **What single thing would improve the quality of your life?**  
Probably a housekeeper.
- 8 **Who would you invite to your dream dinner party?**  
All my friends and Keith Richards – I think he'd be great at a dinner party.
- 9 **What's the worst job you've done?**  
A waitressing job where I had the breakfast shift. It wasn't the job that was so bad, just the hours. I had to go in at five in the morning.
- 10 **If you could go back in time, where would you go?**  
Summer camp in Michigan, aged 14.
- 11 **How do you relax?**  
A hot bath.
- 12 **What keeps you awake at night?**  
Music. A song will keep going round in my brain and keep me awake.

From The Guardian



Q&A Lionel Richie

Lionel Richie was born in Alabama, USA. He became famous in the 1970s as lead singer with The Commodores and again in the 1980s as a solo singer. He is best remembered for songs like *Three times a lady*, *All night long*, and *Say you (say me)*, for which he won an Oscar.

- 1 **What's your idea of perfect happiness?**  
Sunday by the pool, no phone calls.
- 2 **What's your earliest memory?**  
My first day at pre-school. I was terrified. I'd never seen that many children in my whole life.
- 3 **What's your most treasured possession?**  
My Oscar.
- 4 **If you could edit your past, what would you change?**  
The Commodores never did a farewell tour. We just broke up and disappeared.
- 5 **What has been your most embarrassing moment?**  
Forgetting the lyrics to my new single on a TV show.
- 6 **What words or phrases do you most overuse?**  
'I'll call you back' or 'I'll see you soon'.
- 7 **What's the most important lesson life has taught you?**  
Don't trust the smile, trust the actions.
- 8 **What don't you like about your personality?**  
I'm an egotistical maniac with an inferiority complex.
- 9 **What makes you depressed?**  
That there are 24 hours in a day and I need 36.
- 10 **When did you last cry and why?**  
At the funeral of Milan Williams of The Commodores.
- 11 **Who would you most like to say sorry to?**  
To my kids for not being there more.
- 12 **What song would you like to be played at your funeral?**  
*All night long* and Stevie Wonder's *I just called to say I love you*.

2 PRONUNCIATION intonation, stress, and rhythm in questions

Using the right **intonation** or tone helps you to sound friendly and interested when you speak English. **Stressing** the right words in a sentence helps you speak with a good rhythm. **Intonation** + **stress** = the music and **rhythm** of English.

- a **1.1** Listen to questions 1–8. In which one does the speaker sounds more friendly and interested? Write a or b.
- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_
- b **1.2** Listen and underline the stressed words in these questions.
- 1 What's your favourite kind of music?
  - 2 Have you ever been to a health club?
  - 3 How often do you go away at the weekend?
  - 4 Do you know what's on TV tonight?
  - 5 How long have you been living here?
  - 6 What are you thinking about?
  - 7 Are you a vegetarian?
  - 8 What do you do to relax?
- c Listen again and repeat the questions in b. Try to sound as friendly as possible. Then ask each other the questions.

3 SPEAKING

- a Look at the answers other celebrities gave to some other questions in *The Guardian* interview series. In pairs, try to guess what the original questions were.

<p>La Sagrada Familia basilica in Barcelona.</p> <p>1 </p> <p>Natalie Imbruglia, singer and actress</p>	<p>When England went out of the World Cup.</p> <p>2 </p> <p>Danny Jones, from the band McFly</p>	<p>For the Labour party.</p> <p>3 </p> <p>Martin Freeman, actor</p>
<p>Paris in the first decade of the 20th century.</p> <p>4 </p> <p>William Boyd, writer</p>	<p>Going from anywhere back to Copenhagen.</p> <p>5 </p> <p>Helena Christensen, top model</p>	<p>Flying, especially since 9 / 11.</p> <p>6 </p> <p>Shaznay Lewis, singer from All Saints</p>

- b Now choose six questions from the interviews to ask a partner. Only ask questions which you would be comfortable to answer yourself.



## 1A question formation

- 1 Can you drive? Why are you crying?
- 2 Where do you live? Did you go out last night?
- 3 Why didn't you like the film? Isn't this a beautiful place?
- 4 What are they talking about? Where is she from?
- 5 Who lives in this house? How many people came to the party?
- 6 Could you tell me where this bus goes?  
Do you know if he's coming?

- 1 To make questions with modal verbs and with tenses where there is an auxiliary verb (*be, have, etc.*) invert the subject and the modal / auxiliary verb.
- 2 With the present and past simple, add *do / does* or *did* before the subject.
- 3 We often use negative questions to show surprise or when you expect somebody to agree with you.

- 4 If a verb is followed by a preposition, the preposition comes at the end of the question, e.g. *What are you talking about?* NOT *About what are you talking?*
  - We often just use the question word and the preposition, e.g. **A** *I'm thinking.* **B** *What about?*
- 5 When *who / what / which, etc.* is the **subject** of the question, don't use *do / did*, e.g. *Who wrote this?* NOT *Who did write this?*
- 6 Use indirect questions when you want to ask a question in a more polite way. *Where does she live?* (direct) *Could you tell me where she lives?* (indirect)
  - In indirect questions the order is subject + verb. *Can you tell me where it is?* NOT *Can you tell me where is it?*
  - Don't use *do / did* in the second part of the question. *Do you know where he lives?* NOT *does live.*
  - You can use *if* or *whether* after *Can you tell me, Do you know, etc.*, e.g. *Can you tell me if / whether he's at home?*

## 1B auxiliary verbs

- 1 **A** Do you speak French? **B** Yes, I do. Quite well.
- 2 I like dogs, but my husband **doesn't**. Jim's coming, but Anna **isn't**.
- 3 **A** I loved the film. **B** So did I.  
**A** I haven't finished yet. **B** Neither have I.  
He's a doctor and **so is his wife**.
- 4 **A** I went to a psychic yesterday. **B** Did you?  
**A** I'll make the dinner. **B** Will you? That's great!
- 5 **A** You didn't lock the door! **B** I did lock it, I promise.  
**A** Silvia isn't coming. **B** She **is** coming. I've just spoken to her.
- 6 You won't forget, **will you?** Your wife can speak Italian, **can't she?**

Use auxiliary verbs (*do, have, etc.*) or modal verbs (*can, must, etc.*):

- 1 in short answers, instead of answering just *Yes / No*.
- 2 to avoid repeating the main verb / verb phrase, e.g. *I like dogs but my husband doesn't (like dogs).*
- 3 with *so* and *neither* to say that something is the same. Use *so* + auxiliary + subject with a positive verb, and *neither* (or *nor*) + auxiliary + subject with a negative verb.

- 4 to make 'echo questions', to show interest.
- 5 to show emphasis in a positive sentence. With the present / past simple, add *do / does / did* before the main verb. With other auxiliaries stress the auxiliary verb.
- 6 to make question tags. Use a positive question tag with a negative verb and a negative question tag with a positive verb.
  - Question tags are often used simply to ask another person to agree with you, e.g. *It's a nice day, isn't it?* In this case the question tag is said with falling intonation, i.e. the voice goes down.
  - Question tags can also be used to check something you think is true, e.g. *She's a painter, isn't she?* In this case the question tag is said with rising intonation, as in a normal yes / no question.

## 1C present perfect (simple and continuous)

present perfect simple: *have / has* + past participle

- 1 I've been to Australia. Have you ever broken your leg?
- 2 We've just phoned the doctor.  
I've already finished my lunch.
- 3 It's the best book I've ever read.  
It's the first time we've done this.
- 4 My sister's had a baby! Look, I've cut my finger.
- 5 I've known her since I was a child.  
She's had the job for six months.
- 6 How many of his books have you read?  
She's been out twice this week.

Use the present perfect simple:

- 1 to talk about past experiences when you don't say when something happened.
- 2 with *already, just, and yet*.
- 3 with superlatives and *the first, second, last time, etc.*
- 4 for finished actions (no time is specified) which are connected in some way with the present.
- 5 with *How long?* and *for / since* with **non-action** verbs (= verbs not usually used in the continuous form, e.g. *be, have, know, like, etc.*) to say that something started in the past and is still true now.
- 6 when we say / ask *how much / many* we have done or *how often* we have done something up to now.

present perfect continuous: *have / has + been + verb + -ing*

- 1 How long have you been feeling like this? I've been working here for two months.
- 2 I haven't been sleeping well recently. It's been raining on and off all day.
- 3 I've been shopping all morning. I'm exhausted.  
**A** Take your shoes off. They're filthy.  
**B** Yes, I know. I've been working in the garden.

Use the present perfect continuous:

- 1 with *How long?* and *for / since* with **action** verbs to say that an action started in the past and is still happening now.
- 2 for repeated actions, especially with a time expression, e.g. *all day, recently*.
- 3 for continuous actions which have just finished (but which have present results).

present perfect simple or continuous?

- 1 We've lived / We've been living in this town since 1980.  
We've been living in a rented flat for the last two months.
- 2 We've painted the kitchen. We've been painting the kitchen.

- 1 With *How long...?* and *for / since* you can often use the present perfect simple or continuous. However, we often prefer the present perfect continuous for shorter, more temporary actions.
- 2 The present perfect simple emphasizes the completion of an action (= the painting is finished). The present perfect continuous emphasizes the continuation of an action (= the painting is probably not finished).

## 1A

- a Order the words to make questions.

friend known long best have How you your  
*How long have you known your best friend?*

- 1 you messages send ever text Do
- 2 party was a time you to the When last went
- 3 if Could bank here a you me near tell is there
- 4 dinner usually Who the cooks
- 5 shopping do going Who like you with
- 6 at don't weekend you What doing the like
- 7 car to would What you kind like buy of
- 8 you time concert know finishes Do what the

- b Complete the questions.

Where did you go on holiday last year? (you / go)

- 1 How often \_\_\_\_\_ exercise? (you / do)
- 2 Who \_\_\_\_\_ *Crime and Punishment*? (write)
- 3 Could you tell me how much \_\_\_\_\_? (this book / cost)
- 4 What \_\_\_\_\_ at the end of the film? (happen)
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ your trip to Paris last weekend? (you / enjoy)
- 6 What kind of music \_\_\_\_\_? (Tim / usually listen to)
- 7 Who \_\_\_\_\_ Mia's handbag? (steal)
- 8 Do you know when \_\_\_\_\_? (the swimming pool / open)
- 9 Where \_\_\_\_\_ your boyfriend tonight? (you / meet)
- 10 Can you remember where \_\_\_\_\_? (she / live)

## 1B

- a Complete the mini-dialogues with an auxiliary.

**A** You didn't remember to buy coffee. **B** I did. It's in the cupboard.

- 1 **A** It's cold today, \_\_\_\_\_ it? **B** Yes, it's freezing.
- 2 **A** So you didn't go to the meeting?  
**B** I \_\_\_\_\_ go to the meeting, but I left early.
- 3 **A** What did you think of the film?  
**B** Tom liked, it but I \_\_\_\_\_. I thought it was awful.
- 4 **A** I wouldn't like to be famous. **B** Neither \_\_\_\_\_ I.
- 5 **A** Emma doesn't like me.  
**B** She \_\_\_\_\_ like you. She thinks you're very nice.
- 6 **A** Sarah's had a baby.  
**B** \_\_\_\_\_ she? I didn't know she was pregnant!
- 7 **A** Will your boyfriend be at the party?  
**B** No, he \_\_\_\_\_. He's away this week.
- 8 **A** I can't come tonight.  
**B** \_\_\_\_\_ you? Why not?

- b Complete the conversation with auxiliary verbs.

**A** You're Tom's sister, aren't you?

- B** Yes, I <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.  
**A** It's a great club, <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ it?  
**B** Yes, it <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. But I don't like the music much.  
**A** <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ you? I love it!  
**B** Really? <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ you been here before?  
**A** No, I <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.  
**B** Neither <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ I.  
**A** So you <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ go out much, then?  
**B** Well, I <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ go out, but I <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ go to clubs very often.  
**A** Oh, I <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. I love clubbing.  
**B** I'd love a drink.  
**A** So <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ I. Let's go to the bar.

## 1C

- a Circle the correct form of the verb. Tick (✓) if both are correct.

Have you ever (tried) / *been trying* caviar?

- 1 *She's lived* / *She's been living* here for years.
- 2 Your boss *has phoned* / *has been phoning* three times this morning!
- 3 The kids are exhausted because *they've played* / *they've been playing* outside all day.
- 4 *He hasn't seen* / *He hasn't been seeing* the new James Bond film yet.
- 5 *I've never met* / *I've never been meeting* his wife. Have you?
- 6 *We've studied* / *We've been studying* English all our lives.
- 7 *I've tidied* / *I've been tidying* the garage all afternoon. I've nearly finished.
- 8 He'll be here soon. *He's just left* / *He's just been leaving* work.
- 9 How long *have you had* / *have you been having* your car?
- 10 Oh no! Someone *has broken* / *has been breaking* the window.

- b Complete the sentences with the present perfect simple or continuous.

*I've bought* \_\_\_\_\_ a new car. Do you like it? (buy)

- 1 We \_\_\_\_\_ Jack and Ann for years. (know)
- 2 You look hot. \_\_\_\_\_? (you / run)
- 3 Rose \_\_\_\_\_ her homework so she can't go out. (not do)
- 4 Did you know \_\_\_\_\_? They live in Torquay now. (they / move)
- 5 How long \_\_\_\_\_ together? Five months? (Daisy and Adam / go out)
- 6 I \_\_\_\_\_ time to cook dinner. Shall we get a pizza? (not have)
- 7 We \_\_\_\_\_ for hours. I think we're lost. (walk)
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ my chocolates? There are only a few left! (you / eat)